



WASHINGTON DEPARTMENT
OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
FINAL DETERMINATION OF
NON-SIGNIFICANCE
December 16, 2004

STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Mailing Address: 600 Capitol Way N – Olympia, Washington 98501-1091 – (360) 902-2200, TDD (360) 902-2207
Main Office Location: Natural Resources Building – 1111 Washington Street SE – Olympia, WA

MITIGATED DETERMINATION OF NONSIGNIFICANCE

Name of Proposal: DESCHUTES WATERSHED CENTER

Description of Proposal: The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) proposes to relocate Chinook salmon and steelhead trout production currently occurring in Percival Cove and Capitol Lake to a new facility at Pioneer Park (the Deschutes Watershed Center) and to an upgraded facility at the Tumwater Falls Park (upgrade adult holding, juvenile rearing capacity and install pollution control system). Relocation of this production is expected to have the following benefits:

- Transfer of fish between basins could be halted, thereby complying with the Co-Managers Fish Health Policy
- Water quality in Percival Cove and Capitol Lake would be improved, thereby satisfying a request by the Department of Ecology that WDFW cease fish rearing operations in Percival Cove by May 30, 2007

Pioneer Park Site

The Pioneer Park site is located on the north side of the Deschutes River downstream of the Henderson Boulevard Bridge. The Pioneer Park site, to the south of the sports fields, is approximately 44 acres; the proposed project would utilize approximately 8.5 acres. Pioneer Park has existing City water and sewer hookups, access roads and public parking. Preliminary conversations with the City of Tumwater have taken place to discuss the use of potable water and sewer for public and staff bathroom facilities associated with this proposed project. The City has provided tentative approval for these uses. As the project moves forward in the design phase, future conversations with the City will be held to develop agreements and usage terms.

Facilities proposed for the Pioneer Park site include: hatchery building, maintenance building, Watershed Center building (future educational phase), six 10ftx100ft rearing ponds, four 20ftx145ft rearing ponds, one 40ftx200ft rearing pond, fish outlet channel, surface (river) water intake structure and associated pipeline, groundwater wells, head tank pump house, 0.5 acre steelhead trout/public fishing pond, expanded parking area, effluent treatment buildings (drum screen filtration), effluent clarifier pond, and engineered effluent treatment wetlands. The Pioneer Park site will incubate eggs and complete early rearing through release of Chinook salmon and steelhead trout. Additionally, this facility will provide juveniles for final rearing and release at the Tumwater Falls Park facility. Approximately 3,000,000 sub-yearling and 200,000 yearling Chinook salmon as well as 25,000 steelhead trout would be directly released from the Pioneer Park facility into the Deschutes River. The facility will utilize a maximum of 2.2 cubic feet per second (cfs) of groundwater and 21 cfs of surface water. Water usage for fish rearing will be returned to

the Deschutes River within 30ft of the surface water withdrawal location. All facility water will be treated prior to discharge back into the Deschutes River in compliance with an individual NPDES permit. Rearing water will be routed to a primary treatment system, consisting of a disc filter that will remove phosphorus-laden solids from the water. Backwash water used to remove the solids from the screens of the disc filter will be routed to a clarifier for settling. Solids may also be manually removed from the rearing units using a vacuum system. Vacuum cleaning water will be routed to the clarifier for settling. Decanted flow from the clarifier (estimated at less than 5% of total facility flow) will be routed to the engineered wetland polishing ponds for final treatment.

The Department of Ecology has generally considered the use of water for WDFW aquaculture facilities as non-consumptive if the water volume utilized is returned to the source of origin. Under Ecology's definition, water usage at the facility will likely be considered non-consumptive for the purpose of the water right. Evaporation and spillage from hatchery facilities is generally considered less than 2% of the total flow. This issue will be discussed further with the Department of Ecology in the water rights permitting phase of this project.

Tumwater Falls Park Site

The Tumwater Falls Park site is located on the Deschutes River at Tumwater Falls on Deschutes Way. The Olympia-Tumwater Foundation owns the Park, and WDFW currently has an easement for fishery operations within the park. The Tumwater Falls Park is approximately 16 acres, with WDFW currently utilizing 1.5 acres. Development of additional facilities would disturb no more than 0.5 acres. Existing park facilities at this location include: access roads, public parking, walking trails, picnic/play areas, restrooms and an Olympia/Tumwater Foundation office/shop building. Existing fish culture facilities at this site include: fish ladders, two adult holding ponds, spawning area, surface water intake and pump station, and an office/storage building. Currently, adult salmon are collected at this site, held until spawning and then eggs are collected and shipped to a number of hatcheries outside of the Deschutes watershed and health management zones. Juveniles are returned to the site for limited acclimation prior to release. Proposed new facilities include: two 19ftx153ft adult holding ponds with fish viewing windows, a new adult fish ladder connecting to the existing ladder at the falls, re-located surface water intake and pump station (to alleviate sedimentation and future phase trail access issues), effluent treatment clarifier, public viewing area, and possible remodel/relocation of the WDFW office to accommodate visitor usage. Proposed actions will also repair elements of three existing fish ladders, which are nearing the end of their lifespan. The proposed Tumwater Falls Park site will continue to collect and spawn returning hatchery-origin Chinook salmon (egg incubation will occur within health management zone at the proposed Pioneer Park facility), and acclimate and release Chinook salmon juveniles. Approximately 800,000 sub-yearling Chinook salmon would be released from the Tumwater Falls Park facility. The facility will utilize an existing water right for a surface water supply of 54 cfs (9 cfs for rearing and 45 cfs for operation of the fish ladders). Water usage for fish rearing will be non-consumptive and will be returned to the Deschutes River through the fish ladders.

The Pioneer Park and Tumwater Falls facilities will only collect and rear fish of hatchery origin, and the Co-Managers Fish Health Policy that regulates movements of eggs and fish between management zones will be adhered to. The release of 4.025 million fish in the Deschutes River is the current production program and the proposed project does not increase the number of fish released within the Deschutes River.

The proponent shall incorporate the following mitigation measures into the project:

The proposed project, in itself, comprises mitigation for the existing fish rearing program within the Deschutes River Watershed. The proposed program seeks to rectify impacts on water quality in the Percival Cove/Capitol Lake area of the Deschutes River Basin, and to resolve compliance issues with the Washington State Co-Managers fish health policies. To mitigate for impacts due to construction and operation of the proposed facilities, WDFW shall incorporate the following mitigation measures into the project:

1. To mitigate for impacts to the floodplain, the amount of on-site fill will be minimized and compensatory flood storage will be accomplished on-site in accordance with local regulations.
2. The project will avoid impacts to wetlands; however, a minor amount of wetland buffers (areas adjacent to wetlands that serve as transitional zones) will be impacted. The mitigation for impacts to wetland buffers shall include: on-site vegetation enhancement via plantings of native species, including red-osier dogwood, willows, black cottonwood, and other suitable shrub and tree species; and rehabilitation of existing on-site wetland enhancement project areas, including relocation and replacement of vegetation.
3. Proposed changes to the City of Tumwater's municipal code include the addition of a defined riparian buffer to extend 250 feet from the ordinary high water mark along the Deschutes River. Impacts will be mitigated through the planting of native species throughout the corridor. A detailed planting plan will be prepared as required by the City of Tumwater.
4. At Pioneer Park facility discharge will be routed through several stages of treatment, including final treatment through created wetland systems, prior to discharge into the Deschutes River. At the Tumwater Falls facility improvements will be made to the existing waste effluent treatment system to upgrade the system to all known, available, and reasonable methods of preventing, controlling, and treating pollution (AKART), as is required by state law. All discharges will meet or exceed the requirements of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit as administered by the Department of Ecology, and address AKART standards.
5. Deschutes River water withdrawn for facility usage will be returned to the river no more than 30 feet from the point of withdrawal.
6. Groundwater needs at the Pioneer Park facility have been minimized to reduce potential impacts to the adjacent groundwater users.
7. Visual impacts have been reduced through design, as low-level lighting will be utilized. Additionally, the Pioneer Park facility is largely located south of an existing patch of mature forest to minimize visual impacts to property owners to the north.
8. The intake and outfall structures at Pioneer Park have been sited along the riverbank in an area that has been previously disturbed and is currently rip rapped.
9. Loss of existing recreational trails at Pioneer Park will be mitigated for by the creation of new trails to maintain pedestrian usage of the site and access to the river. Additional site enhancements will include educational signage, and native plant demonstration areas.
10. At Tumwater Falls, the existing surface water supply facility will be brought into compliance with WDFW and NOAA Fisheries fish screening criteria to ensure protection of juvenile fish.

Proponent: Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)

Contact Person: Mr. Steven W. Wright, P.E.-Engineering-600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091 (360 902 2652)

Location of Proposal, including street, if any:

Pioneer Park: 5749 Henderson Boulevard SE Tumwater, Washington 98501. Thurston County; Sections 01, 02, 35, 36, Townships 17 & 18 North, Range 02 West WM
Parcels: 12701210201, 12702110100, and 12701220200.

Tumwater Falls Park: 114 Deschutes Way SW, Tumwater, Washington 98501; Section 26, Township 18 North, Range 02 West WM
Parcel: 09470001000.

Lead Agency: Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

The lead agency for this proposal has determined that it does not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. An environmental impact statement (EIS) is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This decision was made after review of the completed environmental checklist and other information on file with the lead agency. This information is available to the public on request.

The Checklist is available on line at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/hab/sepa/sepa.htm>

Reference Documents and full-scale maps are available for viewing at:

City of Tumwater, Development Services, 555 Israel Road SW, Tumwater 98501

WDFW Engineering,

And

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife- Engineering, 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, Washington 98501-1091, ask for Jan Webster or Pauline Garcia.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2); the lead agency will not act on this proposal for 30 days from the date of issue below. **Comments must be submitted by: December 15, 2004**

Responsible Official: Teresa A. Eturaspe

Position/Title: SEPA/NEPA Coordinator, Regulatory Services Section

Address: 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501

Please contact: Teresa A. Eturaspe **Phone:** (360) 902-2575 **Fax:** (360) 902-2946 or
e-mail: habitatSEPA@dfw.wa.gov if you have questions or comments about this determination.

DATE OF ISSUE: November 15, 2004 **SIGNATURE:**



SEPA Log Number: 04-083MDNS